

According to Article No. 32.2 of ICBN, Dalzell's *Clitoria biflora* should be a synonym.

For complete description of the species see T. Cooke FLORA OF PRESIDENCY OF BOMBAY (Vol. 1: 406, 1958).

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### 35. A NEW VARIETY OF *RUNGIA LATIOR* NEES (ACANTHACEAE) FROM SOUTH INDIA

(With two text-figures)

Critical studies on *Rungia latior* Nees — complex conducted both in the field and herbaria revealed that two varieties could be recognised in South India. Though there exists variation in flower size and width of the hyaline margin round the bracts in this species, the specimens collected from Anamalai hill ranges of Western Ghats do not fit within the circumscription of the typical *Rungia latior* Nees. Hence they are accommodated in a new variety. A key to the varieties, and illustrations for the new variety and some distinguishing characters of typical variety have been provided for easy comparison and identification.

*Rungia latior* Nees in DC. Prodr. 11: 472. 1847.

#### KEY TO THE VARIETIES OCCURRING IN SOUTH INDIA

Floral bracts 4.5-6 × 3-4 mm, orbicular-obovate, rounded at apex, ciliate only along the margins; bracteoles ± 5 × 3.5 mm, oblong-obovate, emarginate, obcordate or truncate at apex. (Fig. 2a-b) ..... var. *latior*

Floral bracts 8-9 × 2-3 mm, oblanceolate, acute at apex, ciliate without and along the margins; bracteoles ± 7 × 3 mm, elliptic-oblong, acute at apex ..... var. *anamalayana*

*Rungia latior* Nees var. *anamalayana* Chandrabose & Chandrasekaran, var. nov.

(Fig. 1A-J)

*Rungiae latiori* Nees var. *latiori* affinis sed bracteis floralibus oblanceolatis, apicibus et bracteolis ellipticis — oblongis apicibus acutis differt.

Holotypus Chandrabose 65859 (CAL) et isotypi (5 exsic. MH) in silva conservata Akkamalai in collis anamalayanis ditone Coimbatore in statu Tamilnaduensi die 19 Feb. 1980 lecti sunt.

Allied to *R. latior* Nees var. *latior* but differs in having floral bracts oblanceolate, acute at apex; and bracteoles elliptic-oblong, acute at apex.

Erect or ascending herbs 0.2-1 m tall, rooting at lower nodes; branchlets pubescent. Leaves 1.5-11 × 0.7-4 cm, ovate, ovate-lanceo-

late, elliptic-lanceolate or lanceolate, entire or subentire, lineolate, sparsely hispid, obtuse, subacute or shortly acuminate at apex, cuneate at base; lateral nerves 7-12 pairs, arcuate, prominently reticulate; petioles up to 2.5 cm long, pubescent. Flowers white with violet tinge, crowded in terminal or axillary spikes 2-5 cm long; peduncles 0.5-5 cm long. Barren bract  $8-10 \times 1-2$  mm, linear-lanceolate, acuminate, sparsely hirsute without, ciliate along the mar-

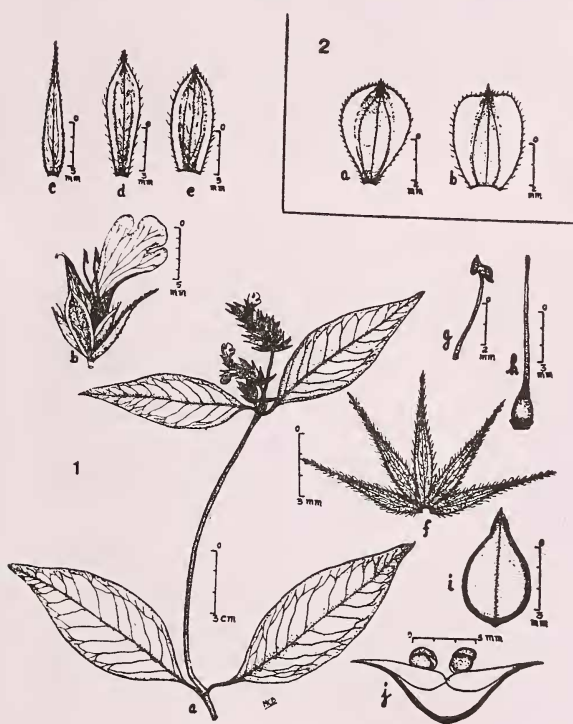


Fig. 1 (a-j): *Rungia latior* Nees var. *anamalayana* var. nov.

a. A twig; b. A flower subtended by bracts and bracteoles; c. Barren bract; d. Floral bract; e. Bracteole; f. Calyx split open; g. Stamen; h. Pistil; i. Capsule; j. Dehiscent capsule.

Fig. 2 (a-b): *Rungia latior* Nees var. *latior* var. nov.

a. Floral bract; b. Bracteole.

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gins, 3-nerved. Floral bract  $8-9 \times 2-3$  mm, oblanceolate, acute, mucronate, hirsute without, hyaline and ciliate along the margins, 3-nerved. Bracteoles two, each  $\pm 7 \times 3$  mm, elliptic-oblong, acute, mucronate, hirsute without along the mid-rib, hyaline and ciliate along the margins. Calyx 5-partite to the base; segments  $\pm 6 \times 1$  mm, linear-lanceolate, acuminate, sparsely hirsute without. Corolla 1.6-1.8 cm long, 2-lipped, scattered hairy without; upper lip  $\pm 7 \times 6$  mm, ovate, acuminate, notched or bifid at apex; lower lip  $\pm 10 \times 8$  mm, oblong-obovate, 3-lobed, mid-lobe longer than the lateral ones; tube  $\pm 6$  mm long. Stamens 2; filaments  $\pm 5$  mm long, glabrous, attached at the mouth of corolla; anthers 2-celled, cells superposed, the lower with basal appendage. Disc cupular. Ovary  $1-1.5 \times 0.6-0.7$  mm, ovoid, compressed, glabrous; style 7-8.5 mm long, filiform, glabrous; stigma notched or shortly bifid at apex. Capsules  $\pm 5.5 \times 3$  mm, ovoid, compressed, acuminate with a short beak, shortly pubescent at the tip, 4-seeded; seeds  $\pm 1.2$  mm across, brown, suborbicular, compressed, minutely tuberculate. (Figs. 1a-j).

The holotype *Chandrasekaran* 65859 (CAL) and isotypes *Chandrasekaran* 65859 (5 herbarium sheets, MH) were collected from Akkamalai R.F., Anamalai hills, Coimbatore District, Tamil Nadu on 19-2-1980.

Common along the slopes of the hills in the evergreen forests at an altitude of about 1610 m.

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